Abstract

The invention relates to the provision of a broadcast data receiver for use in receiving digital data providing any or any combination of video, audio or auxiliary data. The broadcast data receiver receives the data via satellite, cable and/or terrestrial transmission systems via a number of RF carriers. The broadcast data receiver includes at least two tuners which can be controlled to receive data on specific data carriers at specified frequencies in response to user selections when operating a broadcast data receiver. In some instances, at least one of the tuners may not be required to receive data at a specific frequency and, in these instances, in accordance with the invention, the tuner is utilized to scan the available frequency bandwidth for service information and to store said service information for subsequent use. The invention therefore allows the utilization of a tuner when not in primary use for a useful service.